

10/12/15
A1 11.1

Gardner, Teresa

From: Caidyn Edlund <edlund.sid@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2015 12:06 PM
To: Gardner, Teresa
Subject: written testimony

Please accept this written testimony in place of my presence at your meeting tomorrow afternoon that addresses the chicken ordinance. I am unable to attend due to work.

To whom it may concern:

I am providing written testimony on the matter of the chicken ordinance in Sparks, NV. I am not able to attend the meeting due to it being held in the middle of the work day. I have been a resident of Reno, NV since July 2013 and plan on being here for many years to come. I have been the proud owner of a backyard flock of laying chickens for over a year and have enjoyed the many perks that it brings with it.

I recently moved from the northwest area (Keystone/Kings Row) to Virginia City Highlands. During my 2 years in the northwest, I in fact started raising chickens for the very first time. My primary objective was fresh eggs. I also wanted to get a little bit of a start on homesteading, which is something I feel very strongly about developing for my family, mostly due to increased instability in our economy and the ever growing concerns about the safety and quality of mass produced food. I worry tremendously about what things I'm giving my children. With all of the Salmonella and E-Coli recalls on not just meat, but on our produce, I feel it is personally irresponsible to NOT know how to produce my own food source for my family. Plus there is the deep satisfaction gained from being able to do such a thing when the majority of our society relies on commercially produced food. I also want to mention that even though a large majority of people find what myself and many of my fellow homesteaders are doing to be strange and induced by some sort of paranoia - I think it is pretty cool that my kids can go out and collect eggs, feed the chickens, and be aware of where their food is coming from. I can promise that if you walk into an urban elementary school setting, a scary number of children could not tell you how their food ends up on their plates. I personally know this from experience as I am a teacher and have even witnessed kids on the high school level not knowing from where some of their food items originate.

Eggs are just a small portion of being self-sustainable, but it is a start. Bans on chickens do nothing but prevent people from doing just that. Hens are no louder than dogs and are actually much quieter on average. They only make noise when laying an egg, which is often not even every day. Chickens are much easier to care for and can also provide pest control as they are instinctively drawn to eating bugs and even mice. The arguments used for keeping chickens banned can easily be applied to dogs and other domesticated animals as well.

Worried about fighting rings breaking out? Well dogs are used for that ALL THE TIME.
Noise? Dogs are louder and bark more often on average.
Smells? Dogs and cats and put off just as much offensive odor as chickens.
Disease? There's plenty of diseased wild birds flying around - but they don't carry rabies!

Go ahead and regulate chickens as you do dogs and any other animal because they can all become a problem the wrong hands. But there is no reason for banning one and not the other.
As a resident of Reno and not Sparks, I have not had to worry about chicken bans. But my fellow chicken enthusiasts have. Despite all of our different walks of life, we all share a common love for keeping chickens of our own and will support each other in any way we can. I humbly ask and suggest that the ban on chickens in Sparks, NV be lifted.

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I oppose allowing chickens within the city limits of Sparks.

Years ago, there used to be a pig farm out on Vista Drive. As the residential area in Sparks grew and zoning changed, the pig farm became a problem. New residents out in that area did not want to live next to the farm even though it was a well-maintained business. The city limits spread and the pig farm had to go. I have no argument with those wishing practice sustainability, but do not believe farm animals belong inside the city limits. If I remember correctly, there were ordinances in place that prevented the keeping of fowl, pigs, goats, cows, et cetera within a congested area. The field officers with the Nevada Humane Society worked hand-in-hand with animal control and code enforcement officers to identify locations where chickens, specifically roosters, were being kept, as many of these locations were raising game cocks. It is my concern that allowing chickens back into the city limits will give a legal green light to organized/unorganized raising and fighting of game cocks in Sparks again.

There was a reason the ordinances existed years ago before the consolidation of animal services. To again allow the practice would be a complete reversal of everything the City of Sparks worked to stop years ago.

Thank you for your consideration.

Janet Arobio
Former Director of Field Services, Nevada Humane Society
Sparks resident

*Ms Arobio wants
on the record*